



HETCH HETCHY RESTORATION STUDY



STATE OF CALIFORNIA THE RESOURCES AGENCY Department of Water Resources • Department of Parks and Recreation

In November 2004, in response to a legislative request, Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman directed the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Parks and Recreation to review existing studies on the restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley.

In conducting the study, the state provided the first-ever public forum to discuss water supply and water quality, operational flexibility, flood impacts, cultural considerations, and environmental, energy and recreation issues associated with the Hetch Hetchy Valley and water system.

Findings

The final report is a comprehensive and objective analysis of the many Hetch Hetchy Valley restoration research studies produced over the past 20 years. It finds, first and foremost, that much work remains to be done. Even when these previous studies are taken collectively, there are still major information gaps. These gaps include:

- Specifics information on dam removal
- Defined benefits of restoring the valley and quantifying them economically
- Replacing water and power benefits of existing system
- Statewide water management impacts
- Formal public involvement process

Cost Estimates

Costs for Hetch Hetchy restoration could range from \$3 to nearly \$10 billion, depending on water and power supplies replacement, method of dam removal, restoration activities and other factors. This estimate is patterned on existing work using broad assumptions, but is limited due to the lack of detailed information available.

Next Steps

While the report does not include a formal recommendation about next steps, it is clear that further investigations into Hetch Hetchy Valley restoration cannot be led by the State of California alone. Federal participation, specifically the active and direct participation of the U.S. Department of Interior, will be important to help shape future studies and to work with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Native American tribes, and the public on any next steps in this process.

Moving forward, the state's role is to ensure that California's natural resources are protected and utilized for the benefit of all.

The Restoration Study and more information is available at:
<http://www.hetchhetchy.water.ca.gov/>